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Daylight Savings Time

*Turn your clocks ahead
one hour 2 a.m. Sunday!*

Commissary tent sale begins



The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 2 No. 3 ■ Miami ■ March 30, 2001

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details on this
first-ever event**

**Photo by Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Gabe Puello**

Command Run

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Medics patch up quake survivors' bodies, minds

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Joint Task Force-Bravo
Public Affairs

The earth moved under their feet not once, not twice, but at least four times in the first two months of 2001. Earthquakes ravaged El Salvador in January and February, leaving many El Salvadorans homeless, without food or water and emotionally distressed due to loss of family or loss of everything they had, if

not their lives.

The earthquakes left many in need of immediate medical care, already a scarce commodity in Central America. In a 10-day period - from Feb. 18 to 28 - members from Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element and Joint Security Forces contacted over 9,000 patients across four departments (equivalent to the United States' ver-

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sion of states) in El Salvador. This humanitarian assistance mission was quickly packaged and sent out from Soto Cano as part of a disaster relief medical response effort. Airmen and soldiers worked hand-in-hand to tend to the needs of victims of these unexpected and multiple natural disasters.

Teeth were pulled, animals and humans were vaccinated, thousands of people received grief counseling and tons of preventive medicines were distributed. Young and old, men and women all gathered in lines for the ser-



Photo/1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Col. James Fisher, Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element, applies pressure to stop the bleeding of a pulled tooth during a medical mission to Usulután, El Salvador.

vices being provided.

Camouflage liners divided the "offices" for par-

ticular medical care at the site set up at a small school in the Salvadoran department of Usulután, where the joint Army-Air Force team from Soto Cano had set up one of their last stops on the mission.

One of the most needed services provided during this medical assistance mission was mental health. "This was one of the first missions to include a psychologist," said 1st Lt. Joel Grant, officer-in-charge of this mission. "His efforts were invaluable for treating the 'whole' patient."

According to Navy Lt. Cmdr. Luis Fernandez, a psychologist brought down to Central America from U.S. Southern Command, "The earthquakes really

affected a lot of people here in El Salvador. There are a lot of people grieving, and many have requested individual and family counseling for losses in the family, loss of relatives, loss of homes..." Fernandez went on to state that the most vulnerable are the older folks and the children. "The children and elders are very afraid and very hurt," he said. "The children don't understand what is really going on. For everyone, though, the earthquakes have caused serious psychological and psychosomatic disorders. The last two communities we visited were affected the most

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because of the loss of life and damage done by the earthquakes.”

This was Fernandez’s first time in Central America, and it has been uniquely rewarding experience.

“I think, though, the most important thing we bring to these people is not only physical care; we are also bringing them hope, and that is probably the most powerful stuff that will pull them through all of this,” Fernandez said.



Photo by Air Force 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

1st Lt. Gary Hawkins, Joint Task Force-Bravo’s Medical Element, prescribes treatment to a Salvadoran family.

Joint Security Velasco from Force members, previously untrained in the fine art of “tooth saving,” helped Col. James Fisher and Sgt. Fernando

MEDEL’s dental clinic pull teeth. These versatile JSF troops, most effective in their force protection roles at the base

camps set up in El Salvador, proved they could be the jack of all trades and also assisted with vaccinating and treating animals such as bulls, chickens and dogs.

Senior Airman Jeremy Davis of JSF said that the team was originally sent to provide security for the sites MEDEL set up in the various parts of El Salvador. “But, here we are, also having the opportunity to help out the vet with things like de-worming, vaccinations for dogs, pigs, cats, cows, bulls ... We’ve given chicken vitamins and

helped treat injured calves. It’s been quite an educational experience, you could say,” Davis said.

Davis added that he’s never been in Central America, so it’s also great to see different cultures and to see what the United States is doing first-hand to help them. “It gives you a really good feeling,” he said.

Airman 1st Class William Walden, one of Davis’ comrades in arms, elaborated. “The people here (Salvadorans) seem

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pretty high-spirited in spite of everything they have just been through with the earthquakes," he said. "They seem really appreciative of what we've done. In addition to helping the vet, we've also had a few security-related issues we've had to deal with immediately. And it's great to be working with the other services towards one common goal as a joint entity as well as with our host nation counterparts in the El Salvador military."

Velasco, a dental technician from JTF-Bravo, said that he feels

some of his training is really paying off. "It's challenging, as maybe 75 percent of children need dental care here, especially since this is the first time many have received dental care. I've also sent maybe 40 percent of the people I've screened to the colonel to have teeth extractions done." Velasco said it's all worth it when he sees the smile on the child's face when he asks them what color toothbrush they want. But, that smile comes through the grimace they experience with the fluoride on their teeth ... the wonderful tasting stuff that is, he laughed.

One of the older El Salvadoran gentlemen, Prudencio Tursias, 70, of

Salinas del Potrero, who received treatment from U.S. forces at Usulután said, "I think this is really beautiful that the U.S. people are here helping us. We haven't had this kind of help before." Tursias also said that he thinks it is great that the children are receiving some type of medical treatment.

"The children are especially important to us," he said. As far as the earthquakes go, Tursias simply said, "It is God's will. We cannot help it. We just push on and hope everything works out. It's wonderful to have people from other countries here aiding us."

Col. Michael Wood, Joint Task Force-Bravo commander, said he thinks this mission is one of the

most critically necessary in the region right now, especially with the natural disasters that have affected the entire Salvadoran countryside. There are many that cannot receive aid in this time of great need. "And some of these people have not had the kind of help we're offering them here in a very long time," he said. "The most important thing, though, is that we make an impact on their lives, whether they remember us as American U.S. service members or not. I definitely believe we've made an impact on everyone we've treated in El Salvador these past 10 days."

Command serves up role models on 'career day'



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Air Force Lt. Col. Elden Kocourek (Left), J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate, talks to a University of Miami ROTC cadet about what he can expect when he becomes a second lieutenant. The major participated as a role model during the ROTC Det. 155 Career Day.

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**

Command Run Editor

MIAMI – Making career and life choices can be a very unsettling experience for Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets struggling to balance personal goals with anticipated officer responsibilities.

Air Force ROTC Det. 155 at the University of Miami sponsored its Career Day March 21 at Whitten University Center to assist cadets with the difficult transition into military life as they choose their occupations and enter leadership positions as second lieutenants.

A group of U.S. Southern Command officers and enlisted members volunteered their time and participated as role models. At the event, they shared their military experiences, gave career advice, and answered the cadets' many questions.

Army Maj. Michael Rountree, from the J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, offered helpful career advice from a joint-service angle to the cadets. He said he was asked various questions such as "How can you

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keep your unit motivated?"... to "What can I expect from my NCOs?"... to "How do you gain respect?"

Rountree said he was all too happy to answer these and many other questions because "leaders can never miss an opportunity to help develop our future leaders." He said the cadets were starry-eyed, inquisitive and excited about their future. "They were extremely interested and were really looking to gain as much from the experience as possible," the major said.

The only enlisted



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Army Maj. Michael Rountree (Left), from the J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, offers career advice to a young cadet.

member to participate was Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turner, a senior intelligence ser-

geant assigned to the J-2 Intelligence Directorate. Turner said he fielded

many questions regarding the intelligence career field. "They asked about what intelligence folks do, especially in regards to the special operations community," he said.

Air Force Lt. Col. Jim McDonough, a professor of aerospace studies and commander of Det. 155, said the cadets really took advantage of their opportunity to interact with the SOUTHCOM representatives. He said the cadets are all interested in their upcoming Air Force careers and having a chance to talk to people in the "real" Air Force, or Army and Navy, as was the case here, really

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gets them pumped up.

Cadet Maj. Zinnia Acosta, a junior from Miami, Fla., said she always likes talking to the SOUTHCOM personnel because of the joint flavor the organization brings to Career Day. "Our colonel wants us to remember that we are joining not only the Air Force, but also the armed services," she said. "So having Southern Command officers here is beneficial be-

Command's participants

The following U.S. Southern Command personnel participated in Air Force Det. 155 Career Day at the University of Miami:

- Army Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turner, J-2
- Army Capt. Thomas Lloyd, SJA
- Air Force Capt. Charles Weaver, J-2
- Navy Cmdr. Brodes Hartley, J-5
- Army Chief Warrant Officer Gary Garvin, J-2
- Air Force Maj. Ted McIntire, J-5
- Army Maj. Erik Valentzas, J-5
- Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Gilchrist, ASA
- Air Force Lt. Col. Elden Kocourek, J-5
- Air Force Lt. Col. Bill Delehunt, J-3
- Army Maj. Michael Rountree, J-6
- Air Force Capt. Jack Miller, SCPA

cause we learn about the other service branches."

Cadet Lt. Col. Peter Gryn, a junior from Detroit, Mich., agreed that the entire detachment gains valuable information from interac-

tion with the different military officers.

"It's very useful to see what the officers do in their different jobs and their different experiences... both good and bad," Gryn explained. Having the Navy and

Army officers allows us to see a different point of view and it is very interesting."

Career Day is also a great learning platform for the cadets who have little if any Air Force experience, added Cadet Col. Kate Metzges, a senior from Paducah, Ky., and leader of the detachment. She said many of the cadets don't have family members in the military and they need to talk with military members from the Air Force and other services. "It provides a way for them to get introduced to different ca-

reer opportunities, what career fields there are, and what different people in the Air Force do. They also find out a little bit more about Air Force life by talking to people about what they do on a day-to-day basis," she said.

Representatives from SOUTHCOM, Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., and Air Force Association participated at the annual Career Day. There are approximately 100 cadets at Det. 155 who receive advice and benefit from this event.



Senators visit

Gen. Peter Pace (Right), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, talks with U.S. Senators Carl Levin (Left), from Michigan, and Jack Reed, from Rhode Island, in the general's office Feb. 23. The general also welcomed Florida freshman Sen. Bill Nelson and Nebraska Sen. Ben Nelson to the headquarters. The group later traveled to Colombia to gain an in-depth understanding of Plan Colombia. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

SOUTHCOM highlights black history

**By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Gabe Puello**
Command Run Assistant Editor

MIAMI — “Creating and defining the African American Community: family, church, politics and culture” was the theme of this year’s Black/African-American History Month observance at the U.S. Southern Command’s Main Conference Room Feb. 26.

Maj. Gen. Claude Bolton Jr., Air Force Security Assistance Center commander, gave the keynote

address and recalled many lighthearted personal experiences while growing up as a young black male in the turbulent 60’s and his early years after joining the Air Force.

At SOUTHCOM’s observance many notable African American’s were highlighted during a presentation narrated by Mary Ann Kirton, an Army Signal Activity technician. “The contributions and successes these and other notable African Americans made upon the cultural landscape of America was to long a list to rattle off in so short a time.” said Kirton during her address.

That list was the foundation of the keynote speaker’s speech before a



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
Maj. Gen. Claude Bolton Jr., Air Force Security Assistance Center commander, gives the keynote address during the command’s Black History Month Observance.

packed crowd in the auditorium. Bolton’s speech, “a world without our people!” was the story of a world without the many significant achievements of

blacks in society. Bolton noted how there would be no tall skyscrapers because

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Alexander Miles, a black man, invented the elevator. He also mentioned how few if any cars would exist because Richard Spikes, a black man, invented the automatic gear shift, and Joseph Gammel, also black, invented the supercharge system for internal combustion engines, and Garret A. Morgan invented traffic signals.

These were but a few of the examples mentioned in Bolton's speech. The former



Mary Ann Kirton, an Army Signal Activity technician, narrates an African-American history presentation at the observance. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer Gabe Puello)

jet fighter and test pilot recalled his days growing up during the civil rights era marches. Although his parents hailed from Mississippi and Louisiana, both opted to leave family and friends behind for a better life and education for their children in a small Nebraska

town. When referring to his success in the military, Bolton stresses how he was not unique. "There are thousands of black men and women like me who, when given the proper encouragement, particularly by family and friends, can do anything and contribute to this

great nation and to then benefit mankind," he said. He further went on to acknowledge the contributions of America's first Black airmen from the 99th Fighter squadron, the "famed Tuskegee Airmen."

Maj. Gen. James Soligan, J-5 director, then presented Bolton with a gift plaque from the men and women of U.S. Southern Command, followed by refreshment in the conference room foyer area.

By observing African American History Month each year, Americans not only remember the

tragic errors of the past, but also celebrate the achievements of African Americans and the promise they hold for the future as one America. President George W. Bush proclaimed February as National African American History Month. He called upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African American History.



Book donation

Lynne Pace, wife of Gen. Peter Pace, U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, speaks to students March 22 at School No. 163 located in the Prado area of Uruguay. She donated English books to benefit seventh grade students at this school, which is one of five schools participating in a program that includes English as a second language.

Rangers adopt tan beret

FORT BENNING, Ga. -- The 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., announced today that it will exchange its traditional black beret for a tan one.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki approved the regiment's request to change its beret to maintain the distinctiveness of the unit and reflect the legacy of Ranger history.

The Rangers studied several options, officials said, before deciding on the Ranger Tan Beret. The change was requested by a memorandum from Col. P.K. Keen, regimental com-

mander, in a memorandum dated March 9, 2001, to the Army chief of staff.

"The black beret has served the Rangers well and will be a symbol of excellence and unity for the Army," Keen said.

Keen said the Rangers support the Army's decision to don the black Beret and view this as another step forward in the overall Transformation of the Army.

Shinseki announced last year that the Army would issue black berets to all soldiers. That change will take place June 14 — the Army's Birthday. (Army News Service)

Service members get more life insurance coverage

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2001 — Eligible troops will automatically be insured for a maximum \$250,000 in coverage through the military life insurance program starting April 1.

The new coverage marks a \$50,000 increase over the previous maximum provided by Servicemembers Group Life Insurance.

The premium for maximum coverage will be \$20 monthly, said Tom Tower, assistant director of DoD's military compensation office.

SGLI
\$250,000

Participants can then decrease or maintain their levels of SGLI coverage, Tower said, adding that service members who want less than \$250,000 of coverage after April 1 must apply for it through unit finance or personnel officials.

If you don't want the increased insurance, you have a 30-day grace period to decline it, otherwise,

you'll have to pay at least two months of increased coverage, he said.

The government and commercial insurers underwrite SGLI, which has been in existence since 1965, said Tower. It has been more than eight years since the last increase in maximum coverage, he added.

He said 98 percent of all service members are covered by SGLI and 80 percent have maximum coverage. This shouldn't be surprising, he noted, as military members, like police and firefighters, often perform hazardous duty.

At 80 cents for each \$10,000 of coverage, SGLI rates are competitive, and

coverage is guaranteed, whether you're an aviator, sailor or tanker, Tower said. Service members can also convert their SGLI policies to the Veterans Group Life Insurance program after they leave the service, he said.

Tower noted congressional interest in extending SGLI coverage, in lesser amounts, to service members' family members.

It looks like there is support for passing that this year for spouses and children, Tower said. It certainly would make SGLI one-stop-shopping for family life insurance. Can't say it's a certainty, but it looks like a good possibility.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

Former CINC speaks

Retired Marine Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, former commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, visits with and briefs personnel Wednesday about his recent trip to the command's area of responsibility, including Cuba where he met with Fidel Castro.

Help fix quality of life issues that affect you

Organizers of the 2001 Joint Family Action Plan Focus Groups want to know what quality of life issues are affecting the command.

U.S. Southern Command personnel can let their concerns be heard by filling out an "issue card" and inserting it in yellow boxes located at the Health Clinic, the break lounge at the Thurman Building, and Family Support Center at the Codina Building.

Volunteers are also needed to participate in small focus group discussions to address issues identified through this process.

For more information on how to submit an "issue card" or to volunteer on a focus group, call Jenny Priestly at **(305) 437-2639** or E-mail her at sealeyj@hq.southcom.mil.

News briefs

Tax assistance available

The U.S. Southern Command's Volunteer Tax Income Assistance Program is available to assist people with their federal tax returns.

This tax service is for SOUTHCOM service members and employees only. This is a free service through the use of volunteers who have been trained by the IRS. All information given to the tax representatives is confidential.

Here are some tips to make tax preparation easier:

- Make sure you have your children's exact birthdates and social security numbers.
- Make sure all names on your tax forms appear exactly as they are on the social security cards.
- You are responsible to file your own

state tax forms. The VITA representatives do not have any state forms.

■ Make sure that you have all tax information available with you at your appointment.

■ If you have a complicated return, let the tax representative know and after a short screening process, you may be given an appointment with a Staff Judge Advocate tax attorney. If you are a civilian, you will only be eligible for normal tax service and will be referred to another agency that will be able to file complicated tax returns.

■ Ensure that all information is correct and accurate. If a number or letter is wrong, your return may be rejected and you will have to repeat the process.

■ Civilian contractors are not eligible for the tax program and will be

referred to a qualified tax representative.

If you don't wish to use this service, the representatives can refer you to another tax service that may or may not require a fee.

Each directorate has a tax representative. Call your representative at to participate in VITA:

J-1, Belitta Smith, Ext. 1127

J-2, Sgt. 1st Class Tiwana Williams, Ext. 2020; Master Sgt. James Johns, Ext. 2056; Staff Sgt. Orville Alleyene, Ext. 2006; and Staff Sgt. Joel Peacock, Ext. 2136.

J-3, Cpl. Alexander Saldana, Ext. 3001.

J-4, Cmdr. Wayne Williamson, Ext. 1412.

J-5, Sgt. Milagros Rosario, Ext. 1503.

J-6, Petty Officer 1st Class Angela Lewis, Ext. 1645.

J-8, Michael Guthrie, Ext. 1817

SCEN, Lt. Col. Michael Beard, Ext. 1161

SCRA, Maj. Kenneth Olivo, Ext. 1267

ASA, Mercedes Miranda, Ext. 1902

All others, Sgt. Isaac Peterson, Ext. 1307

Computer day

A Computer Security Day is scheduled 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Thurman Building Conference Center. Nearly 30 computer companies will be on-hand displaying their products in a computer and information assurance technology exposition and vendor fair.

Other activities planned include a chance to win a fabulous prize for completing the command INFOSEC training on Computer Security Day. The event is open to all person-

nel. Call Air Force Staff Sgt. Richard O'Brien from the J-6 Directorate at (305) 437-3205 for more information.

All that Jazz

The Hearing Research Institute, a Dade Schools partner, presents "All That Jazz 2001," a fun-filled night of music and dance performed by deaf kids to benefit deaf kids, 7 p.m. May 3 at Coral Gables High School Auditorium located at 450 Bird Road, Coral Gables, Fla. Call Reserve Col. (Dr.) Bob Pickard for tickets or for more

information at (305) 661-9100.

Green to Gold

The University of Cincinnati Army ROTC Battalion has opportunities available to soldiers through the Green to Gold Program.

The school is offering nearly unlimited numbers of four, three, and two-year Green to Gold scholarships to qualified active-duty soldiers with at least 24 months of active service. The scholarships cover full tu-

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DECA tent sale

The Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., and U.S. Southern Command is having a Joint Commissary Tent Sale Today through Sunday at the SOUTHCOM headquarters. There will be an assortment of food and non-food items available for sale at considerable savings. The tent will be located on the command's east parking lot at 3511 NW 91st Avenue in Miami. The parking lot will close beginning Feb. 24 to prepare for the sale.

Shoppers are encouraged to register to win super prizes, which will be given away April 1 at 4 p.m. People who register do not have to be present to win.

Cash and checks are the only form of payment that will be accepted. The tent sale will be open for business March 29, 30 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and April 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All shoppers must have a valid military ID.

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ition and fees at the university, \$600 each year to pay for books, a \$250 monthly stipend, and a \$750 signing bonus. The school also has a limited number of room and board scholarships available for incoming cadets. In addition, they are offering quarterly \$1,500 interest-free deferred loans and free licensed tutoring to those cadets that need a little extra help -- financially or academically. Upon graduation and completion of ROTC requirements cadets receive a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. For more informa-

tion about the program, call Army Capt. Joe Lisella at (513) 556-3666 or 3660 or contact him via E-mail at joe.lisella@uc.edu. Interested people can also get information on the Internet at <http://ucaswww.mcm.uc.edu/armyrotc/>.

TAP Workshop

A Transition Assistance Program Career and Job Search Workshop is planned 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 23 through 26 at the La Quinta Hotel located at 8730 NW 27th Street in Miami.

The event, sponsored by the Base Operations Education Center, will cover topics such as skills and self assessment, veter-

ans benefits, employment networking, job search strategies, resume writing and interviewing techniques.

A pre-separation counseling session is required prior to the TAP workshop. The next pre-separation briefings are scheduled April 11 and 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Center located at 8300 NW 33rd Street, Suite 110.

Call **Michela de Barrow**, Family Support Center, at (305) 437-2665 or 2726 to register for these workshops.

Free job fair

The U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Coast Guard Job Fair is 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 24 at the

Metro Dade Fire Fighters Memorial located at 8000 NW 21st Street in Miami.

People should come with their resumes ready to speak with prospective employers and to fill out their application forms.

Among the employers scheduled to be present are the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Express, FBI, BellSouth, Miami Dade Police Department, TEK Systems, Sprint, U.S. Postal Service, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Orion International Consulting Group, Bradley-Morris Military Placement, RTM Star Center, First Investor, Wackenhut Secu-

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rity, Air Jamaica Airlines, City of Miami Police, U.S. Customs, On-Site Staffing, Argenbright Security, Sytex Inc., Lucent Technology, A-Job-For-You, and Men's Warehouse.

Call **Michela de Barrow**, Family Support Center, at **(305) 437-2665** or **2726** to register for this free event.

Thrift Savings

By **Jim Garamone**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2001 — Service members can begin to sign up for the Thrift Savings

Plan beginning Oct. 9, 2001, DoD officials said.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement and investment plan that has been available to civilian government workers since 1987. Congress extended the plan to include service members in 2000.

"It's in addition to your regular retirement," said Army Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, a tax expert with DoD's Office of Military Compensation. "It's an optional program."

The open season for signing up will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8. Deductions start in January 2002. In 2002, service members can contribute up to 7 percent of their basic pay.

The maximum amount

service members can contribute from basic pay will change. The current limit of 7 percent of basic pay will rise to 10 percent by 2005 and become unlimited in 2006.

Unlike civilians, who cannot make lump-sum payments into the program, service members may also contribute all or a percentage of any special pay, incentive pay, or bonus pay they receive.

"You can contribute from 1 percent to 100 percent of your special pays, incentives and bonuses into the thrift plan," Emswiler said.

The total amount generally cannot exceed \$10,500 for the year. Contributions from pay earned

in a combat zone do not count against the \$10,500 ceiling. Combat zone contributions are subject to a different limitation, however, 25% of pay or \$35,000, whichever is less.

Like civilian employees in the program, service members must choose how they want their money invested. Right now, there are three funds to choose from. The funds run the gamut of safe — the G Fund invests in special government bonds — to riskier investments — the C Fund tied to the stock market. There is also an F Fund for investing in commercial bonds.

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TSP will unveil the new S and I funds in May. S Fund investments go to a stock index fund that paces small businesses. I Fund investors will track international companies the same way.

Service members will be able to start, change or reallocate their TSP contributions during two open seasons held each year. These are November to January and May to July.

“Because bonuses are hard to predict, if you are already participating in the plan and contributing from basic pay and you receive, for example, a re-enlistment bonus, you can elect to contribute at any time,” Emswiler said.

Contributions to the plan come from “pre-tax” dollars. Service members pay no federal or state income

taxes on contributions or earnings until they’re withdrawn.

The services will have teams visiting members to explain the program. Until then, see the thrift plan’s uniformed services page at www.tsp.gov/uniserv/index.html for more information.

YMCA Essay Contest

Special to the American Forces Press Service

SPRINGFIELD, Va., Feb. 26, 2001 — Entry deadline is April 9 for the Armed Services YMCA’s annual essay contest to promote reading among children and teens of active, Reserve, Guard and retired service members and DoD civilian employees.

Co-sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute, the essay contest is in its fifth year. Winners receive U.S. Savings Bonds ranging in value from \$100 to \$1,000.

One \$500 first place and one \$100 second place bond will be awarded in categories pre-school and kindergarten, first and second grade, third and fourth grade, fifth and sixth grade, and seventh and eighth grade. High school students can win a \$1,000 bond for first place and a \$500 bond for second place. In addition, there are four \$100 bonds for essays of honorable mentions.

Entrants in grades eight and below should submit essays of 300 words or less. Beginning writers may have their parents write their words for them. High school students should write essays of 500 words or less.

At the top of each essay, entries should include the student’s name, age and grade; address; phone number or e-mail a parent may be

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reached; parents' names; service affiliation; rank of military member; and military installation. Include the school or youth program if that's how the student enters. Entries may be sent by mail or e-mail. E-mail essays can be either in the message body or attached as Microsoft Word or plaintext documents. They must be sent no later than April 9 to essaycontest@asymca.org. Libraries, schools, and other agencies on military installations with Internet access may enter essays for contestants. Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than April 9 to be eligible. Send them to:

Armed Services YMCA

Attn: Essay Contest

6225 Brandon Ave.

Suite 215

Springfield, VA 22150.

All entries submitted become the property of the Armed Services YMCA and cannot be returned. For additional information, visit www.asymca.org, send an e-mail to essaycontest@asymca.org, or call (703) 866-1260, Ext. 16.

Honor Roll

New lieutenant colonels

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command Army majors on their recent selection for promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel:

- Phillip K. Abbott, J-5
- Adolfo K. Aquino, J-5
- Phillip R. Cummings, SCEN
- Jose A. Echevarria, J-3
- Diane M. Pound, J-4
- Jose R. Rosa, J-5
- Paul M. Wiseman, J-2

New colonel

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command Air Force lieutenant colonel on his selection for promotion to the rank of colonel during the recent Judge Advocate General Selection Board:

- Terrence H. Farrell, SJA



Colonel retires

Air Force Col. Barry J. Chisholm (Center), J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate Counter Drug Division deputy director, receives his retirement certificate Wednesday at the Thurman Building from Air Force Lt. Col. Elden Kocourek, an action officer in the J-5. Chisholm's wife Mona (Right) also received a certificate of appreciation for her service to the nation. Chisholm culminated a 26-year distinguished career. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



Men's varsity squad wins softball league

**By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF**
Command Run Editor

Miramar City Softball Championship in Broward County March 21.

MIAMI – An errorless defensive effort and three huge offensive innings helped the U.S. Southern Command Men's Varsity Softball Team defeat the Indians 19-7 in the

(Left) Lee Quinones, Army Signal Activity, gets a base hit during the fourth inning of the Miramar, Fla., City Softball Championship March 22. The U.S. Southern Command beat the Indians 19-7.

The Indians, a local team, played flawlessly in the early innings, which included an early offensive barrage. Their bats came alive in the first inning when they took a 4-0 lead on five hits and a walk. SOUTHCOM fought back but managed only one run in the second when Ralph Dubois walked and then Dough Steffan and David Tolson followed with

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singles. However, the Indians followed with another run in the top of the third inning making the score 5-1.

In the bottom of the third inning, SOUTHCOM took a 6-5 lead when Lee Quinones, Robert Cook, Daniel Rodriguez, Dubois and Amos Rolle singled, and Manuel Lopez tripled. Both teams went scoreless in the fourth inning before the Indians tied the score at 6-6 in the top of the fifth.

SOUTHCOM re-



Andrew Sullivan hits a line drive to the second baseman during the fourth inning. SOUTHCOM scored the majority of its runs in the third, fifth and sixth innings.

sponded with another huge offensive spurt in the bottom of the inning. Lee Roberts led off the inning with a triple, while Lopez and Dubois followed with singles. Rolle then hit an in-the-park homer to score three runs. Steffan followed with

a traditional homer over the right-center-field fence. Tolson then singled and scored on two more singles by Quinones and Cook, making the score 12-6 SOUTHCOM.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Indians managed another run on three hits to close the gap 12-7. However, SOUTHCOM's offense proved too much for the Indians in the bottom of the inning.

Rodriguez led off with a single and then Roberts hit his second triple of the game to drive him in,

making the score 13-7. Lopez then grounded out another single to score Roberts making it 14-7. Dubois followed with a single before Rolle knocked them both in with a triple, increasing the lead to 16-7. Steffan then hit a long fly ball that bounced off the top of the right field fence for his second homer and an 18-7 lead. Tolson then swelled up and drove the ball into a stiff wind over the left fielder to the fence for a double. Gene Milowicki

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quickly singled in Tolson to make the score 19-7, ending the game on the 12-run mercy rule.

Rodriguez, the SOUTHCOM coach, said everybody on the team had something to do with scoring runs, which was evident by the team's 26 hits. Also, he said, the team played great defense with no errors, allowing only 12 hits.

"With the hitting, we started off real slow," Rodriguez said. "Then we blew up in the third, fifth and sixth innings. Every player had something to do with scoring, even if it was a sacrifice or hitting to the

opposite field. We did everything that had to be done to ensure the team pulled out the win."

Quinones, who went 3-for-3, said he was glad he could contribute to the team's victory. But, he attributed the victory to everyone knowing his role. "When we were down early in the game... we stepped it up and hit the ball harder," he said. "No one tried to do more than what they were capable of and we came out on top."

Another teammate who went 3-for-3 was Tolson, who also scored the game-ending and winning run. He said that he thought camaraderie, intensity and teamwork were the keys to the team's championship



Daniel Rodriguez (Left), the team's coach, and Amos Rolle, the assistant coach, pose with the championship plaque following the game.

run. "The veteran players didn't get down after getting behind early in the game," Tolson stressed.

"We kept up our intensity

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and played good defense, which kept our spirits up. That allowed us to stay loose and the bats eventually came alive in the third inning. And then we batted around in the fifth inning to set ourselves up for victory in the sixth inning.”

Rodriguez said after the game that the success of the team was also due to Rolle, the assistant coach. “I couldn’t have done it without his help, his advice and leadership,” he said. “However, there were 17 most valuable players. That’s the way I feel. Everybody came together and gelled. Everyone accepted

“With the hitting, we started off real slow. Then we blew up in the third, fifth and sixth innings. Every player had something to do with scoring, even if it was a sacrifice or hitting to the opposite field. We did everything that had to be done to ensure the team pulled out the win.”

Daniel Rodriguez

*U.S. Southern Command
Men’s Varsity Softball Coach*

their roles all year and there were never any bad attitudes.”

The coach also noted that while everyone on the team enjoyed the camaraderie and competition, they always remembered that they were ambassadors of

the command and always played with good sportsmanship in mind.

“Many people in the community still don’t realize SOUTHCOM is here in Miami,” noted Quinones. “When we get involved in these leagues they learn

about our presence. But they also learn to know us on a personal level because we do let our hair down and have a good time on the field. They also notice how military members from every service, along with civilians, come together as a team with good attitudes and sportsmanship. Ultimately, it’s a win-win situation for SOUTHCOM to have teams like ours involved in the community.”

SOUTHCOM team members not only were good examples to the community, but the team had a very successful season. They also claimed the regular season championship going 8-1. Their only loss of the season was to the Indians 15-14.

Congratulations to the men's softball champions

Congratulations to members of the U.S. Southern Command Men's Varsity Softball Team who won the City of Mirimar, Fla., Men's Softball Championship March 21:

- Mike Amrhein
- Robert Cook
- Donald Dinehart
- Ralph Dubois
- David Jones
- Lee Leskinen
- Gene Milowicki
- Fernando Mojica
- David Monge-Rivera
- Lee Quinones
- Lee Roberts
- Daniel Rodriguez
- Amos Rolle
- Kristian Rolle
- Doug Steffen
- Andrew Sullivan
- David Tolson
- Keith Jackson
- Manuel Lopez



Photo by Angie Quinones

Runners jump at chance to 'Beat the Stars'

By Kathy Paine

Homestead ARS Public Affairs

"Beat the stars" was the name of the game on the bright Saturday morning of March 10.



Through Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., and along the runway more than 200 participants ran and walked as fast as they could for five kilometers (3.1 miles), which takes roughly one hour to complete to beat the stars.

The runners and walkers came out to Homestead to help raise money and to



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

More than 200 walkers and runners line up March 10 to test their physical abilities in the bright Florida sun for the "Beat the Stars" 5K walk & run event.

try their physical talents at beating the stars. The stars were Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles E. Stenner Jr., 482nd Fighter Wing commander and Brig. Gen.

Michael J. Aguilar, deputy commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces South in Miami. The Homestead African-American Heritage Committee, Federal Women's Program and the Hispanic Heritage Committee used this event to raise funds for educational scholarships, computers, and school uniforms for South Miami/Homestead area communities. A portion of the proceeds will also be provided to the Armed Forces Services Center at Miami International airport.

"This was the first time

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these three groups at Homestead collaborated together for an event. This event was a success because of great support we received from the people here at Homestead, and the folks at SOUTHCOM. All the hard work and effort is worth it when it's for a good cause," said Craig Etherly, organizer of the run.

All participants received the official "Beat the Stars" 5K run and walk T-shirt, and a free continental breakfast.

There was also a great festival of family activities including music, food, military aircraft and vehicle displays.

The static displays included a fuels truck from 482nd Logistics Group, an F-16 from 93rd Fighter Squadron, a fire truck from 482nd Fire Department, and a Blackhawk



Army Sgt. 1st Class Henry Montoya, U.S. Southern Command Army Signal Activity, runs past several C-130 Hercules transport aircraft on the ramp at Homestead Air Reserve Station, Fla., during the "Beat the Stars" 5K run. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello)

helicopter from U.S. Customs.

Recruiters from Homestead and the U.S. Marines were also there with their displays, equipment and literature.

Prizes and awards were given to the first, second and third place divisional winners. The winners are as follows: Male Runners; 1st Place- Steve Jones 17:10; 2nd Place-Gary

Edwards 17:13; 3rd Place - Craig Parsons 17:27. Female Runners: 1st Place-Gweynnth Carr 19:49; 2nd Place-Mira Bedo 20:07; 3rd Place-Barbara Reid-Mills 24:54. Male Walkers: 1st Place- Hamilton Walker 37:22; 2nd Place-Patrick Dunnells 38:24; 3rd Place - Alvaro Bernal 39:09. Female Walkers: 1st Place-Cheri Kenyon 33:50.

Sgt. John E. Deist



John E. Deist (Right) gets pinned to the rank of sergeant March 22.

Service: **U.S. Army**
Organization: **J-2 Intelligence Directorate**
Duty title: **Intelligence analyst**
Time in service: **Two years, nine months**
Hometown: **Sterling, Kan.**

Hobbies: **Running and wrestling**

Favorite duty station: **Camp Carroll, Korea**

Career Highlights: **Distinguished honor graduate at the Intelligence School; distinguished honor graduate at Primary Leadership Development Course; and U.S. Southern Command Junior Enlisted Member of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2000**

Jason Ward



Jason Ward (Center) gets pinned to the rank of sergeant March 22.

Service: **U.S. Army**
Organization: **J-2 Intelligence Directorate**
Duty title: **Intelligence analyst**
Time in service: **Two and one-half years**
Hometown: **Grand Blanc, Mich.**

Hobbies: **Hockey, singing, artwork and education**

Favorite duty station: **U.S. Southern Command**

Career Highlights: **Attaining a masters degree in psychology from the University of Maryland, and continuing personal advancement in the military intelligence field**



Bataan marchers

Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Jackson (Left), Army Signal Activity, and Navy Seaman Apprentice Michael Klem, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, march with 35-pound packs March 22 near the U.S. Southern Command headquarters in Miami. They are part of a 10-member team that will march on a gruelling 26-mile course at the 13th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March April 1 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)